In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A client-side media computer, comprising:

a first connection port to allow a speech-based conversation to occur over the home-based broadband connection to the Internet network;

a second connection port to allow a speech-based conversation to occur over a public switched telephone network (PSTN); [[and]]

a plurality of speech engines that recognize speech and synthesize speech to allow the speech-based conversations to occur over the first connection port and the second connection port; and

a personal software application retrieval module that retrieves personal information from a software application based upon a personal software application voice command of the user;

wherein a user connects to the computer via the broadband connection in order to provide at least one personal software application voice command.

2. (Currently amended) The computer of claim 1 wherein the personal software application voice command controls at least ~~a user connects to the computer in order to provide at least one home appliance voice command said computer further comprising:~~ an appliance control software module that controls at least one appliance based upon the user's voice command.

3. (Currently amended) The computer of claim 2 wherein the user uses a wireless communication device to connect to the computer in order to provide the ~~appliance~~ voice command.

4. (Currently amended) The computer of claim 3 wherein a user connects to the computer over the second connection port in order to provide at least one appliance voice command, ~~said computer further comprising:~~ and [[an]] the appliance control software

module ~~that~~ controls at least one appliance based upon the user's voice command received over the second connection port.

5. (Currently amended) The computer of claim 4 wherein the user uses a plain telephone connected to the PSTN in order to provide the ~~appliance~~ voice command over the second connection port.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The computer of claim [[6]] 1 wherein the user uses a wireless communication device to connect to the computer in order to provide the personal software application voice command.

8. (Currently amended) The computer of claim [[7]] 1 wherein the software application is software selected from the group consisting of personal information management software, financial software, electronic mail software, and combinations thereof.

9. (Currently amended) The computer of claim 7 wherein a user connects to the computer over the second connection port in order to provide the at least one personal software application voice command, wherein the personal software application retrieval module controls at least one appliance based upon the user's voice command received over the second connection port.

10. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 9 wherein the user uses a plain telephone connected to the PSTN in order to provide the appliance voice command over the second connection port.

11. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 10 wherein the software application is software selected from the group consisting of personal information management

software, financial software, electronic mail software, and combinations thereof.

12. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 1 wherein the computer operates within residential home of a user.

13. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 1 wherein the computer operates within SOHO environment.

14. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 1 wherein the computer operates within a non-Internet Service Provider environment.

15. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 1 wherein the first connection port provides for voice data over a VoIP channel.

16. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 1 wherein the first connection port provides for voice data over a VoN channel.

17. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 1 further comprising:

a voice markup language management module connected to the Internet network in order to retrieve a voice markup language program to interact by a speech-based conversation with the user over the first and second connections.

18. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 17 wherein the voice markup language management module communicates a voice application request to a voice application web site over the Internet, wherein the voice application web site provides a voice markup language program to the voice markup language management module.

19. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 18 wherein the provided voice markup language program interacts by a speech-based conversation with the user.

20. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 19 wherein the web site includes a database that stores the voice application data in accordance with a predetermined voice application taxonomy, wherein the web site retrieves voice application data based upon the voice application request from the voice markup language management module, wherein the retrieved voice application data is used to provide the voice markup language program to the voice markup language management module.

21. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 20 wherein the voice application request is based at least in part upon the voice application taxonomy.

22. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 21 wherein the voice application taxonomy includes classifications selected from the group consisting of required speech engine resources, required telephony resources, required telephony markup language, required application server environment, and combinations thereof.

23. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 20 wherein a plurality of audio advertisements is accessible by the web site, wherein at least one of the audio advertisements is retrieved and based upon predetermined selection rules, wherein the retrieved audio advertisement is played to the user.

24. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 23 wherein the request includes a user profile, wherein at least one of the audio advertisements that substantially matches the user profile is played to the user.

25. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 23 wherein the selection rules includes balanced ad usage rules that are used to determine which stored audio advertisement to retrieve.

26. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 1 further comprising:

a phone management module that handles calls from a user over the first and second connection ports in order to allow a speech-based conversation to occur with another user.

27. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising the steps of:

communicating with a first communication device located on an Internet network so that a speech-based conversation can occur over the connection to the Internet network;

communicating with a second communication device located on a public switched telephone network (PSTN) so that the speech-based conversation can occur over the public switched telephone network; [[and]]

recognizing speech and synthesizing speech with a plurality of speech engines to allow the speech-based conversation to occur over the Internet network and the public switched telephone network; and

a personal software application retrieval module that retrieves personal information from a software application based upon a personal software application voice command of the user;

wherein the recognizing of speech includes an understanding of speech and a user connects to the computer via the broadband connection in order to provide at least one personal software application voice command.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27 wherein a user connects over the Internet network to the -computer via [[a]] the broadband connection in order to provide at least one home appliance voice command, said method further comprising the step of:

controlling at least one home appliance based upon the user's voice command.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the user uses a wireless communication device to connect to the computer in order to provide the home appliance

voice command.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[30]]27 wherein the user uses a wireless communication device to connect to the computer in order to provide the personal software application voice command.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31 wherein the software application is software selected from the group consisting of personal information management software, financial software, electronic mail software, and combinations thereof.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of:

retrieving a voice markup language program so that the speech-based conversation can occur.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of:

retrieving from a remote database a voice application to manage the speech-based conversation.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein data about the voice application is stored in the remote database based at least in part upon voice application taxonomy means.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the voice application taxonomy means includes classifications selected from the group consisting of required speech engine resources, required telephony resources, required telephony markup language, required application server environment, and combinations thereof.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:

playing an audio advertisement when a voice application is retrieved from the remote database in order to service a request from a user.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the first communication device is a cellular communication phone.

39. (Previously presented The method of claim 27 wherein the first communication device is a remote computer that provides a telephony service.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the second communication device is a cellular communication phone.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the second communication device is a plain phone.